

HOUSE BILL 1455

By Byrd

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
Chapter 10, Part 2, relative to offenses involving
motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 10, Part 2, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

55-10-209.

(a) As used in this section:

(1)

(A) "Compartment" means any box, container, space, or
enclosure:

(i) That is intended or designed to conceal, hide, or
otherwise prevent the discovery of contraband; and

(ii) That is within or attached to a motor vehicle;

(B) "Compartment" includes any of the following:

(i) False, altered, or modified fuel tanks;

(ii) Original factory equipment of a vehicle that is modified,
altered, or changed to accommodate or contain contraband; and

(iii) A box container, space, or enclosure that is fabricated,
made, or created from or added to the existing structure of a
vehicle;

(2)

(A) "Contraband" means any property, item, or substance which is unlawful to produce or possess under state or federal law;

(B) "Contraband" includes any cash or monetary instrument that is the proceeds of an unlawful activity; and

(3) "Vehicle" means any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer.

(b) A person commits a Class E felony who:

(1) Knowingly possesses, uses, or controls a vehicle with a compartment; and

(2) Has the intent to store, conceal, or transport contraband in the compartment.

(c) A person commits a Class C felony who knowingly facilitates the storage, concealment, or transportation of contraband by:

(1) Designing, constructing, building, altering, or fabricating a compartment for a vehicle;

(2) Installing or creating a compartment in a vehicle; or

(3) Attaching a compartment to a vehicle.

(d) The trier of fact may infer that a person intended to violate subdivision (b)(1) if the person possesses, uses, or controls a vehicle that has a compartment, and the compartment contains:

(1) Contraband; or

(2) Evidence of prior storage, concealment, or transportation of contraband.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.